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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 2, in a laser-processing machine 11, one single measuring cell 12 is provided for checking the gas composition in the feed lines of the supply gases, the cutting and working gases, and the gases in the beam path. The laser beam 14 that exits from a rear mirror 13 of a laser 27 and is supplied to a power measuring head 14 is directed into the measuring cell 12 as a diagnostic beam. Gases to be examined are selectively supplied to the multiplex circuit and valves 15. These may be gases from feed lines for supply gases of the laser (i.e., from a feed line 16 (CO₂), 17 (N₂) and 18 (He)). The gas atmosphere in a beam path 19, into which cutting and working gases are guided via a feed line 20 (O₂) and a feed line 21 (N₂) can be tested since the feed line is provided with a gas exit 22, a feed line to the measuring cell 12, and a valve 15. The measuring cell 12 is associated with a vacuum pump 23 for evacuating the measuring cell 12. Feedback of the gases into the beam path 19 after the gas exit 22 is also feasible.